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age or sex was spared, and a general clearance was made of the Moslems, Doubtless the picture of Falcandus is overdrawn. But his description of the mob of Messina as composed of robbers and scoundrels of the worst type is confirmed by the author of the history of Richard Cœur-de-Lion's Crusade, in which the *Griffons* or Greek-descended townsmen of Messina, and their Lombard fellow-burghers, are represented as giving the worst of welcomes to the crusading armies. A medieval seaport gives no fair standard but contemporary writers leave an impression that the Sicilian kingdom experienced the evils, no less than the advantages, that attend the mixing of races, the more so as the violent and fanatical Latin element gained the upper hand of the Greek and Moslem population.

The Byzantine influences that were so strong in the kingdom of Sicily depended not only upon an existing Greek population, but upon a deeply-rooted administrative system and a civilisation which were in possession of large parts of Italy and the southern island when the Normans first came in. In actual population, the Greeks were the preponderant element in Calab-

ria and thence along the coastland of
the Gulf of
Taranto to Brindisi, and in the whole
peninsula of
Otranto. In Sicily, the Normans found
the By-
zantine population numerous in the
eastern island
and surviving in Palermo and the
western cities,
Except in the towns, the Byzantine
population